

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 30-50 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 30 and 40 have been amended.

Claim Rejections §102 and 103

Claims 30-34, 38, 39, 40 to 44, 48 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,380,007 A (“Travis”).

Claims 36, 37, 46, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ‘007 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,324,035 A (“Morris”).

Claims 35 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ‘007 and ‘035 in view of U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2004/0015953 A1 (“Vincent”), Application No. 09/811,977.

Personal Interview and Interview Summary

The Applicant notes with appreciation the interview conducted with Examiners Hoel and Hotaling on March 12, 2008. Applicant reviewed the features of the independent claims in view of the cited Travis reference.

The Applicant agrees with the Interview Summary Sheet provided at the end of the interview reflecting the discussion with the Examiners regarding proposed claim amendments relating to how the simulation rule data interacts with the physical object data to produce a random result. The Examiners indicated that Travis had both types of data, but did not appear to interact in the manner suggested by the Applicants to produce a random result.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended claims 30 and 40 to require an interaction between the physical object data and the simulation rule data to produce a random outcome and “the predetermined

outcome probability distribution of the plurality of possible simulated outcomes being defined by the interaction of the physical object data and the simulation rule data.” As explained in the interview, Travis generates a result via a random number generator and then renders the graphics of the balls propelled by air. (Abstract). At the appropriate time, the Travis system selects the ball that displays the result obtained from the random generator. Travis therefore does not anticipate nor suggest the present claims because these claims require that the random outcome is determined as a result of the interaction between physical object data and the simulation rule data as now required by amended claims 30 and 40. Since Travis uses a random number generator to obtain the outcomes, Travis does not disclose the determination of the random outcome via the interaction of physical object data and simulation rule data. These claims have also been amended to demonstrate that the predetermined outcome probability distribution of the plurality of possible simulated outcomes is defined by the interaction of the physical object data and the simulation rule data. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 30 and 40 and their dependents are now allowable over Travis and the other cited references.

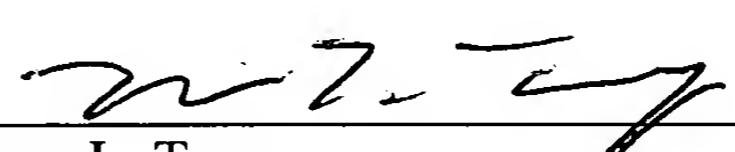
Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and action towards that end is respectfully requested.

If any matters may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number shown.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 27, 2008


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